# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

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IN THE MATTER OF THE )
REQUEST OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN )
POWER FOR A WAVIER OF THE ) DOCKET NO. 08-035-35
SOLICITATION PROCESS AND )
FOR APPROVAL OF )
SIGNIFICANT ENERGY )
RESOURCE DECISION. )

### TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

TAKEN AT:

Public Service Commission 160 East 300 South, Room 403

Salt Lake City, Utah

DATE:

July 17, 2008

TIME:

9:10 a.m.

REPORTED BY:

RENEE L. STACY, CSR, RPR



### APPEARANCES

### COMMISSIONERS:

TED BOYER (Chairman) RIC CAMPBELL RON ALLEN

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### FOR THE UAE INTERVENTION GROUP:

GARY A. DODGE Attorney at Law HATCH JAMES & DODGE, PC 10 West Broadway Suite 400 Salt Lake City, UT 84101

- 1 hearing from Mr. Peterson soon enough.
- Okay. I think now it's time to hear your
- 3 next witness, Mr. Monson. Is it Mr. Duvall?
- 4 MR. MONSON: It's Mr. Duvall.
- 5 GREGORY DUVALL
- 6 called as a witness and sworn, was examined and
- 7 testified as follows:
- 8 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 9 BY MR. MONSON:
- 10 Q Mr. Duvall, could you state your name for
- 11 the record?
- 12 A Yes. My name is Greg Duvall.
- 13 Q And could you provide your business address
- 14 and position?
- 15 A My business address is 825 Northeast
- 16 Multnomah, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon, and my
- 17 position is director, long-range planning and net
- 18 power costs.
- 19 Q And you filed two pieces of testimony in
- 20 this case; is that right?
- 21 A That's correct.
- 22 And if I were to ask you the questions set
- 23 forth in your testimony today, would your answers be
- 24 the same as set forth in your prefiled testimony?
- 25 A Yes. Yes, they would.

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Do you have a summary of your testimony?
 1
          Q
               I do.
 2
           A
               Could you present that?
           Q
               Yes.
           A
                In my direct testimony, I present the
 5
      analysis performed by the Company to determine that
 6
      the acquisition of the Chehalis plant is beneficial
 7
      to the Company and its customers and is in the public
 8
      interest. I used data and models from the 2007 IRP
 9
      2008 business plan, the 2012 RFP, and information
10
      that we acquired through due diligence.
11
                I used the system optimizer model, which is
12
      an IRP model, to modify the business plan portfolio
13
      to include Chehalis beginning in 2012, and the result
14
      of that was the avoidance of front-office
15
      transactions through 2011 and the avoidance of a
16
      combined-cycle combustion turbine beginning in 2012.
17
                This new portfolio is subject to analysis
18
      through the Company's hourly dispatch model, the
19
      planning and risk model, or PAR model.
20
                The results of that showed a benefit to the
21
      Company or to the acquisition of the -- for the
22
      acquisition of the Chehalis plant of 142 to 197
23
      million dollars.
24
                In my rebuttal testimony, I clarified how
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- 1 my direct testimony addressed both the IRP and the
- 2 2012 RFP. I also describe the additional information
- 3 that was provided by the Company through data
- 4 responses, specifically responses to the DPU Data
- 5 Request 6.2 where the Company provided the stochastic
- 6 results and went through that analysis that included
- 7 the Chehalis plant in comparison to the other
- 8 resources in the 2012 RFP evaluation. I also
- 9 responded to specific comments raised by the
- 10 Committee, which were -- they are suggesting
- 11 establishing a -- what I would call a higher prudence
- 12 standard for the Chehalis plant as compared to
- 13 plants -- other plants that we're not asking for
- 14 preapproval, and state these conditions are
- 15 inequitable, which include disallowance of capital
- 16 improvements and indemnification by the Company for
- 17 risks associated with the acquisition of the plant.
- 18 I also comment on the acquisition costs
- 19 that were identified in Mr. Bird's rebuttal
- 20 testimony, the 4.7 million in maintenance costs,
- 21 which were already included in my analysis. I've
- 22 also -- I had not included the 1.6 million, which was
- 23 estimated for the outside professional services, or
- 24 the 1.5 million greenhouse gas payment, but conclude
- 25 that inclusion of those in my analysis would not have

- 1 a material result -- or impact on the results of the
- 2 analysis.
- 3 Finally, I conclude that, given the direct
- 4 testimony I provided, the studies that I provided,
- 5 along with the additional analysis that was requested
- 6 through data responses, that that definitively shows
- 7 that the Chehalis plant is in the public interest.
- 8 MR. MONSON: Mr. Duvall is available for
- 9 questions.
- 10 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
- 11 Duvall.
- Ms. Schmid, questions for Mr. Duvall?
- MS. SCHMID: I think just perhaps one, as
- 14 he -- Mr. Duvall already made one of my points in his
- 15 summary.
- 16 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MS. SCHMID:
- 18 O Mr. Duvall, in your confidential rebuttal
- 19 testimony at Line 118, you particularly describe the
- 20 impact of these -- the 1.6 and the 1.5 million
- 21 payments. Could you please tell us that precise
- description? It's the beginning of Line 118.
- 23 A I'm sorry? The description of the impact?
- Q Yes. How did you describe the impact of
- 25 these payments?

2 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Mr. Allen? 3 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: No. 4 CHAIRMAN BOYER: And neither do I. 5 Thank you so much, Mr. Bodington, for 6 participating. 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 8 COMMISSIONER BOYER: Okay. I think we're 9 now to the point where we'll hear from the 10 Committee's witnesses, but let's check with our reporter to see how she's doing. 11 12 THE REPORTER: Fine now. CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. You'll give me the 13 14 signal if you wish a break? 15 THE REPORTER: Yes. Thanks. 16 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. 17 Mr. Proctor, please. 18 MR. PROCTOR: Thank you. The first 19 Committee witness is Michele Beck. 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. PROCTOR: 22 Q Ms. Beck, would you state your position with the Committee of Consumer Services, please? 23 A I'm the director of the Committee of 24 25 Consumer Services.

MR. DODGE: No questions.

1

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Q Your -- the comments that were prepared by
 1
      you or under your direction have already been entered
 2
      into evidence. Do you have a summary of those
 3
      comments?
 4
 5
          A Yes, I do.
               Today I'll be presenting the Committee of
 6
      Consumer Services' policy recommendations in this
 7
      proceedings. These recommendations are also
 8
      contained in the comments submitted, which were
9
      prepared either by me or under my direction.
10
               Other parties have painted, I believe, an
11
      overly complicated picture of our positions, when, in
12
      reality, there are three simple policies the
13
14
      Committee is advocating.
               The first is the legal challenge that we
15
      presented that our attorney, Mr. Proctor, has already
16
     mentioned. The second, since the Commission has not
17
      yet ruled on the Committee's legal argument, the
18
      Committee moved forward with its analysis and in
19
      formulating recommendations regarding the approval of
20
      the resource acquisition itself.
21
               Based upon the report of our consultant,
22
      Phil Hayet, who is here today to also respond to
23
      questions, as well as our internal review, the
24
      Committee found the plant to be beneficial to
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- 1 consumers in the long run, but also found that the
- 2 benefits are not as overwhelming as portrayed and
- 3 that there are some identifiable risks associated
- 4 with this plant.
- 5 Given these conditions, combined with the
- 6 circumstance of acquiring the resource outside of the
- 7 more rigorous process of the RFP, ratepayers need
- 8 certain specific protections to ensure that that
- 9 acquisition will result in just and reasonable rates;
- 10 therefore, the Committee is recommending that
- 11 approval of the acquisition should be accompanied by
- 12 certain conditions, and it is our consultant,
- 13 Mr. Hayet, who will discuss those certain conditions
- 14 that were presented in his report.
- 15 And then the third issue is the request for
- 16 an accounting order. The Committee has presented its
- 17 view that such an accounting order is unnecessary in
- 18 both the case of the acquisition premium and the
- 19 exclusivity payment and that deferred accounting, in
- 20 our view, would be improper in the case of the
- 21 exclusivity payment in the event that the Company did
- 22 not follow through on the acquisition and incurred
- 23 that specific cost.
- 24 Further, we think it is important to note
- 25 that the Commission did not specifically address this

- 1 issue in its scheduling orders or any procedure for
- 2 addressing these issues, nor did the Company file
- 3 testimony or evidence in support of these requests;
- 4 therefore, we think there's no basis for the
- 5 Commission to grant the request at this time, but we
- 6 do reiterate our request that the Commission
- 7 explicitly state its intentions on how it will
- 8 address the issue of the accounting order.
- 9 Q In addition to your summary, Ms. Beck, have
- 10 you had an opportunity now to have reviewed the
- 11 Company's July 11th rebuttal testimony?
- 12 A Yes, I have.
- 13 Q Do you have some comments with respect to
- 14 that testimony?
- 15 A Equally brief comments, yes, I do. The
- 16 first issue on that, in PacifiCorp's rebuttal
- 17 comments, it suggests that the Committee would like
- 18 to have it both ways in both enjoying the substantial
- 19 present value of the reduction in revenue requirement
- 20 by still wanting to impose conditions that would
- 21 protect consumers from some of the risks associated
- 22 with the acquisition of Chehalis.
- 23 First, the Committee notes that, while none
- of the parties in this proceeding has recommended
- 25 against approval, it is also true that, in our view

- and understanding of their comments and testimony,
- 2 none confirmed the Company's assertion of substantial
- 3 benefits. Rather, our understanding of their
- 4 positions, it appears that the consensus is that
- 5 benefits were there, but to a lesser extent than
- 6 characterized by the Company.
- 7 Second, it is important to remember that
- 8 this plant is not being acquired through the RFP
- 9 process. Because consumers do not have the
- 10 protections that would come from comparing the plant
- 11 to other specific alternatives, imposing other
- 12 specific protections would be appropriate.
- 13 And, finally, the Committee notes that many
- of the benefits touted by the Company could be shown
- 15 to be shareholder benefits, and our consultant,
- 16 Mr. Hayet, will address that specific issue further,
- 17 but, to the extent that shareholders do receive
- 18 significant benefit from this resource acquisition,
- 19 we think ratepayer protections are even more
- 20 appropriate and warranted.
- 21 The second issue I'd like to address is in
- 22 Mr. Bird's rebuttal testimony, Pages 17 to 20, which
- 23 discusses the acquisition -- certain acquisition
- 24 costs. Mr. Bird introduces new costs in this late
- 25 phase of the proceeding. I believe that we share the

Division's view on these costs. There was the \$4.7 1 million maintenance prepayment, the \$1.6 million for 2 outside consultants and lawyers, and then the \$1.5 3 million for greenhouse gas mitigation, and an unknown 4 sum for the true-up on working capital. 5 On Page 20, Mr. Bird specifically indicates 6 they are asking for recovery of the 305 million 7 purchase price as well as the 1.6 million, the 1.5 8 million, and the unknown working capital described. 9 In my reading, I do not see that he specifically 10 states that they're seeking recovery now of the 4.7 11 million, but he does indicate that will be included 12 in rate base, so I presume that to also be a specific 13 14 request for recovery. As the Division stated, the Committee has 15 16 also not had the opportunity to fully review these new costs and object to the introduction in the 17 rebuttal phase of the case. This is a specific 18 example of the type of concern we have already raised 19 in terms of costs arising that are different from 20 those that were assumed in the Company's analysis 21 showing benefits from the plant. 22 If the Committee -- pardon me. If the 23 Commission chooses to grant preapproval, it must be 24 clear what specific costs have been preapproved. Any 25

- 1 additional costs beyond those that are specifically
- 2 approved should either be disallowed or be required
- 3 to be presented and fully supported in a subsequent
- 4 rate case subject to a full prudence review, as would
- 5 be true for any utility cost or expense.
- 6 In this case, costs introduced in the final
- 7 phase of prefiled testimony cannot be seen to have
- 8 been fully supported and should not be considered for
- 9 preapproval.
- 10 And then finally, on Page 15 of Mr. Bird's
- 11 rebuttal testimony, he quotes the Oregon IE report,
- 12 both the one dated June 18th, 2008 and a supplemental
- 13 report dated July 2nd, 2008. His chosen quotes, I
- 14 believe, gives the impression that the Oregon IE has
- 15 given unequivocal support for the acquisition of
- 16 Chehalis, and I'd like to supplement his quotes with
- 17 one other.
- On Page 8 of the June 18th report, in the
- 19 section entitled "Policy Points," it states -- and
- 20 here's the beginning of the quote -- "first, we agree
- 21 with PacifiCorp that this waiver request is not and
- 22 should not be a substitute for a full prudence
- 23 review. If PacifiCorp was found later, in a prudence
- 24 review, to have been fundamentally wrong in its
- 25 assessment of the offsetting costs we discussed

- 1 above, that would weigh against prudence and cost
- 2 recovery. Indeed, for purposes of cost recovery, we
- 3 suggest that PacifiCorp be held within some
- 4 reasonable bounds to its assumptions made here as if
- 5 it was offering a pay-for-performance PPA. This
- 6 would serve to further reduce risks to ratepayers."
- 7 The Committee acknowledges the very clear
- 8 differences between the Oregon and the Utah
- 9 proceedings with respect to preapproval.
- Nonetheless, we believe it's noteworthy that the
- Oregon IE's conclusion is similar to the Committee's,
- incorporates specific conditions to reduce the risk
- 13 to ratepayers.
- 14 MR. PROCTOR: Ms. Beck is available for
- 15 cross examination.
- 16 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you, Ms. Beck.
- Does the Company have cross examination for
- 18 Ms. Beck?
- 19 MR. MONSON: Just a couple of questions.
- 20 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 21 BY MR. MONSON:
- 22 Q Ms. Beck, you just talked about the
- 23 benefits, and I think you characterized that other
- 24 parties didn't agree there were substantial benefits
- 25 to the acquisition of Chehalis, and I just want to

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opinion, are there some other benefits of this
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 3
      acquisition in terms of lower -- actually, an
      avoidance of construction kinds of risk and, to some
 4
 5
      extent, operational risk, inasmuch as there's some
 6
      data on -- even though it's been operated as a
 7
      merchant plant, there's still data available on its
 8
      characteristics. Are those -- are those -- are there
 9
      benefits, I guess, first, and then, secondly, did you
10
      consider those in your analysis?
                THE WITNESS: Yes, I think there are
11
12
      benefits, and yes, we considered it.
               CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Thank you.
13
14
               Redirect, Mr. Proctor?
               MR. PROCTOR: No. Thank you.
15
16
               CHAIRMAN BOYER: Okay. Thank you,
     Ms. Beck.
17
               Mr. --
18
19
               MR. PROCTOR: Hayet.
20
               CHAIRMAN BOYER: Mr. Hayet? Okay.
21
                           PHIL HAYET
22
     called as a witness and sworn, was examined and
23
     testified as follows:
24
     11
25
     11
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certain risks that you've identified. In your

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1	DIRECT EXAMINATION
2	BY MR. PROCTOR:
3	Q Mr. Hayet, if you could state your name and
4	by whom you're employed.
5	A My name is Phil Hayet. My Company is Hayet
6	Power Systems Consulting.
7	Q Mr. Hayet, you were retained in this matter
8	and have filed with the Commission or the
9	Committee, and which is now filed with the
10	Commission, a report pertaining to your analysis of
11	the Chehalis purchase; is that correct?
12	A Yes, that's correct.
13	Q Do you have a summary of your findings and
14	analysis that you'd like to present?
15	A I do.
16	On June 20th, 2008, comments that I wrote
17	concerning my review of Rocky Mountain Power's
18	request to acquire SUEZ Energy Generation's Chehalis
19	plant were filed by the Committee of Consumer
20	Services in this proceeding.
21	My evaluation primarily focused on the
22	reasonableness of PacifiCorp's economic evaluation
23	and assessed the condition of the plant based on a
24	review of documents through discovery.
25	The purpose of my review was to determine

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whether I believe that PacifiCorp's evaluation was
 2
       reasonable and would provide benefits to Utah
       ratepayers.
 3
                My ultimate conclusion was that, while the
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 5
      acquisition of the Chehalis plant appears to be a
      reasonable investment, given that the plant can be
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, 7
      required -- can be acquired at a substantial discount
 8
      to the cost to construct a new combined-cycle unit, I
 9
      found many issues that raised red flags and caused me
      to be concerned that the value of the plant is not
10
11
      quite the bargain that PacifiCorp purports it to be.
12
                I believe that the benefits of the plant
13
      will be virtually assured from the perspective of the
14
      utility shareholders, as they will almost immediately
15
      begin to earn a return on and return of their
16
      invested capital as soon as the next rate case is
17
      complete.
18
                However, the benefits of the Company's
19
      ratepayers are more speculative. While I believe
20
      Chehalis almost certainly will be valuable to the
      Company's shareholders right from the start, I also
21
22
      believe that it will offer value to PacifiCorp's
23
      customers, but over a longer term. Based on the
      company's economic evaluation, customers will incur
24
25
      higher costs with Chehalis for the first seven years
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and then will realize positive benefits after that.
 1
               Customer benefits are more speculative than
 2
     shareholder benefits and it may take even longer for
 3
     customers to realize benefits if the Company
 4
     encounters additional costs associated with acquiring
 5
     and operating the Chehalis plant that were not
 6
     incorporated in the Company's economic analysis.
7
               Because the Chehalis acquisition is taking
 8
     place without the usual solicitation process, which
9
     is a more ideal approach to ascertain market value,
10
     and because I have identified numerous concerns about
11
     the Chehalis plant, I believe that the Commission
12
     should establish conditions that share the risk of
13
     the acquisition in a reasonable manner between the
14
15
     Company and the ratepayer.
               Concern regarding Chehalis. Not all costs
16
     have been incorporated in the economic evaluation,
17
     and additional costs may arise that have not been
18
     accounted for. Costs not accounted for in the
19
     economic evaluation include purchase of the spare
20
     transformer from SUEZ at a cost of .6 million,
21
     partial payment for the GE services agreement in the
22
     amount of 4.7 million, payment of 1.6 million for
23
24
     outside consultants and lawyers associated with the
      acquisition, integration capital costs of 1.2
25
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- 1 million, other capital costs of 2 million, greenhouse
- 2 gas mitigation fees in Washington of 1.5 million.
- 3 The Company pointed out that the location
- 4 of Chehalis is not optimal to the east side due to
- 5 transmission limits. Acquiring or building a
- 6 physical resource on the west side of the system when
- 7 resources are needed on the east side increases
- 8 physical delivery risk in Utah.
- 9 When the new Path C transmission upgrade is
- 10 completed in 2010, a significant amount of Jim
- 11 Bridger capacity will be accessible by the east side.
- 12 The risk that arises would occur in the event that
- 13 there is an outage of the Jim Bridger capacity or of
- 14 the transmission line itself.
- 15 PacifiCorp points out that one potential
- 16 solution to mitigate this identified risk will be
- 17 PacifiCorp's Gateway transmission project which will
- 18 add an additional amount of capacity from Nevada to
- 19 Utah. However, to date, it's my understanding that
- 20 there's no commitment regarding owning this
- 21 transmission line.
- Due diligence concerns. I've done a
- 23 complete evaluation of the due diligence results and
- 24 identify some concerns as follows: First, I point
- out the Company's generation team found and stated

- 1 the following: Although there are several risk
- 2 concerns, an additional investment in the plant will
- 3 be necessary. No fatal flaws were uncovered that
- 4 would indicate the Company should not pursue purchase
- 5 of the facility. We have heard today Mr. Bird
- 6 reiterate this statement.
- 7 At the same time that the Company makes the
- 8 statement, the Company's own evaluation states other
- 9 issues that they do point out through the due
- 10 diligence assessment. For example, potential
- 11 compressor blade failures. A partial solution may
- 12 involve derating the capacity of the unit during the
- 13 summer period.
- 14 If this potential compressor blade failure
- occurs, it could result in costs of 16 to 20 million
- dollars, not accounting for the replacement power
- 17 costs that might be incurred.
- 18 Chehalis has been designed for an emergent
- 19 owner. The due diligence reports stated that there
- 20 were a number of original design issues that have
- 21 impacted or continue to impact the plant's
- 22 operational flexibility, reliability and performance.
- 23 These issues are not deal killers, as the Company
- 24 states, but do have an operational impact and create
- 25 some additional risk.

1 In general, the original plant design 2 included very little equipment to support routine 3 cycling, and these are the Company's own comments. This included no auxiliary boiler, no startup vacuum 4 5 pump, limited consideration for cycling duty, and no 6 dew point heater. There are no building structures 7 to cover equipment or provide for adequate storage. 8 Single hundred percent boiler feed pump, no emergency diesel generator, additional integration costs, and 9 10 there will be requirements for additional capital 11 costs. 12 Mr. Bird's rebuttal testimony seems to 13 imply that these issues do not pose significant risks 14 compared to risks faced by other PacifiCorp resources such as Currant Creek or Lakeside; however, I have 15 16 never heard PacifiCorp explain that there are a number of design issues associated with those units 17 18 and that can impact their operational flexibility, 19 reliability, and performance. 20 Concerning the environmental assessment, 21 the Company's environmental assessment report 22 expressed concern that Chehalis' environment program 23 appeared to be very weak prior to December of 2006, 24 that documentation of records for this period were 25 not readily available for review at the site, and

that a review of external audit reports indicates a 1 general inattention to detail by the operations and 2 maintenance groups. 3 I now turn attention to the review of the 4 economic evaluation. The value Chehalis brings is as 5 follows: The Company will incur higher capital costs 6 in the 2008 to 2012 period due to adding a new 7 resource prior to the need for new capacity in 2012, 8 but during this period, these higher capital costs 9 will be partially offset because Chehalis' fuel costs 10 will be a bargain compared to the cost to purchase 11 energy that it will avoid, which will lead to fuel 12 cost savings. This is per the analysis that the 13 14 Company has performed. Overall, customers will incur a higher cost 15 of \$31 million with Chehalis between 2008 and 2012; 16 however, beginning in 2013 and continuing through 17 2026, there will be large savings in capital costs 18 due to the acquisition of Chehalis since its capital 19 cost is much lower than the capital cost of the 2012 20 east side CCGT unit that can be eliminated due to the 21 Chehalis acquisition. 22 Overall, net benefits are 173 million 23 during that later period. The sum of the 31 million 24 in higher costs during the early period with the 173 25

- 1 million in lower costs during the latter period
- 2 results in the total Chehalis benefit of 142 million
- 3 on an MPV basis.
- 4 That was one of the analyses that Mr.
- 5 Duvall presented. He also presented another case in
- $\,$  6  $\,$  which the assumption of the displaced CCGT unit was
- 7 an even higher cost, and that led to, as I recall, a
- 8 \$192 million benefit.
- 9 Having described the concerns that I have,
- 10 the -- there is one other concern that I would point
- 11 out that I analyzed, and that had to do with the
- 12 Bodington analysis. Mr. Bodington conducted a fair
- 13 analysis of the Chehalis plant in a way that seems
- 14 reasonable, which is conducted by many parties in
- 15 this type of situation.
- The issue that I raise with Mr. Bodington's
- analysis had to do with the assumption of an 80
- 18 percent capacity factor running the Chehalis plant.
- 19 I -- in all the analyses that the Company conducted,
- 20 80 percent was significantly higher than the capacity
- 21 factor that Chehalis has ever showed. It showed more
- on the order of about a 43 percent capacity factor.
- Therefore, I believe that, while
- 24 Mr. Bodington's analysis may be fairly equivalent to
- 25 the value that the Company has decided that it will

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pay for the plant, I think it's possible that the
 1
      Bodington analysis slightly overstates the value that
 2
     Mr. Bodington determined.
 3
                In terms of conditions, given our concerns
 4
      that we have with things such as the environmental,
 5
      the additional potential capital costs, concerns
 6
      about the operation of -- the potential operational
 7
      issues of Chehalis, we recommend that -- Chehalis may
 8
      well be a sound purchase; however, I've identified
9
      enough issues concerning Chehalis that caused me to
10
      recommend placing conditions on the acquisition.
11
               These include the 8.7 million exclusivity
12
      payment. Customers should not be made to bear the
13
      cost of paying for the exclusivity payment in the
14
      event that PacifiCorp decides to back away from the
15
      deal with SUEZ. For any capital costs above the
16
      requested 305 million that may arise between now and
17
      closing, PacifiCorp should be responsible to pay that
18
      amount, especially given that this is the amount the
19
      economic evaluation was based on.
20
                But in the alternative that disallowing
21
      these costs if the Commission shall choose, another
22
      option is that any additional costs should be
23
      presented and fully supported in a subsequent rate
24
      case subject to a full prudence review.
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1
                 Capital improvement costs. The Company may
  2
       need to spend 3 million for capital improvements. I
 3
       recommend that PacifiCorp should be limited to
 4
       recover no more for capital improvement costs than
 5
       the amount that has been included in PacifiCorp's
 6
      economic valuation or in its due diligence analyses.
 7
                I'm willing to accept that this condition
      be limited to the first three years of operation of
 8
 9
      the plant, but, again, in the alternative, at the
10
      Commission's choosing, they -- I feel it may be
11
      appropriate to allow the Commission to consider
      disallowing these costs, and any additional costs
12
13
      should be presented and fully supported in a
      subsequent rate case subject to a full prudence
14
15
      review.
16
                The Committee has concerns regarding the
17
      maintenance prepayment costs of 4.7 million, outside
      consultant lawyer fees, 1.6 million, and greenhouse
18
19
      gas mitigation fees, 1.5 million, which are all costs
20
      that were either not included in the Company's
      economic evaluation or were only identified at the
21
22
      time the Company filed its rebuttal testimony on July
23
      11th.
                The Committee believes that there is
24
25
      justification to disallow these costs because they
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- have not been all carefully evaluated; however, in
- 2 the alternative, these additional costs should be
- 3 presented and fully supported in a subsequent rate
- 4 case subject to a full prudence review, again, if the
- 5 Commission prefers that option.
- The serious compressor blade failure issue.
- 7 A risk of a serious compressor blade failure exists
- 8 at Chehalis, and if it does, it could cost as much as
- 9 16 to 20 million to repair the unit. The cost would
- 10 be higher after accounting for any replacement costs
- 11 that PacifiCorp would bear -- would incur.
- 12 I recommend that for a period of at least
- 13 three years, PacifiCorp should bear the cost of any
- 14 serious compressor blade failure; however, the
- 15 Commission may want to consider devising some cost
- sharing that could be implemented between
- 17 shareholders and customers.
- 18 Foggers. Operation of the foggers will
- 19 lower the value of Chehalis, potentially eliminating
- 20 as much as 34 megawatts of capacity during the summer
- 21 period. For purposes of ratemaking, I recommend that
- 22 PacifiCorp should be required to use the full
- 23 seasonal capacity ratings of the unit without
- 24 accounting for the fogger deration.
- 25 Environmental concerns. I believe that

- 1 customers should be held harmless for any
- 2 environmental issues that may arise in the future for
- 3 the period prior to when PacifiCorp acquired the
- 4 plant. I am willing to accept that this condition
- 5 could expire after three years. In fact, I heard
- 6 today from Mr. Bird that it's possible that there is
- 7 an indemnity clause already that would protect
- 8 customers, so that may not be an issue whatsoever.
- 9 Finally, uneconomic generation. Given the
- 10 Committee's position regarding uneconomic generation
- 11 that has arisen in most recent rate cases, I
- 12 recommend that in all future rate cases the Company
- 13 must be required to test to make sure that Chehalis
- is dispatched in the Company's ratemaking models such
- 15 that no uneconomic generation occurs.
- And that completes my comments.
- 17 MR. PROCTOR: Mr. Hayet is available for
- 18 cross.
- 19 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Hayet.
- 20 Does the Company have cross examination for
- 21 Mr. Hayet?
- MR. MONSON: No questions.
- 23 CHAIRMAN BOYER: Thank you.
- Ms. Schmid?
- MS. SCHMID: No questions.